

LOCAL TALK

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“LET’S TALK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES”

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ESSEX COUNTY • EAST ORANGE • ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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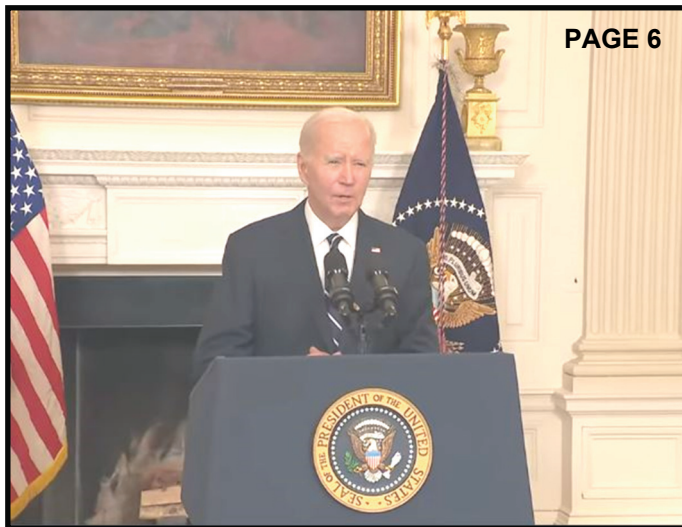
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ISRAEL & HAMAS

AT WAR

Over 1,000 Dead Hundreds Injured and Abducted

U.S. President Biden giving remarks on the shocking Hamas attack in Israel



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DISPLACED EAST ORANGE FAMILIES AWAIT FATE IN HOTEL

By Walter Elliott

EAST ORANGE - The 12 families who were forced out by state and city officials here Sept. 26 are into their 15th day of temporary housing here at the Ramada Inn as of Noon Oct. 10.

Noon is usually the hotel's daily checkout time but the City of East Orange, for now, is paying the hotel's rent.

Six people of the 12 dislocated families were taken to West Orange's Wilshire Grand Hotel Oct. 5, only to be brought five miles back to the Ramada by Noon Oct. 7. Wilshire staff told the City of East Orange and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs that the rooms used were previously reserved for the Oct. 6-9 weekend.

Those who were displaced from 65 South Harrison St. here are operating with the understanding that the city is paying for their temporary housing. They were told by Ramada staff that their building owner, Harrison Construction & Management, of Spring Valley, NY, had been paying the rent here until Noon Oct. 4.

They do have a lot of questions. When they can go back to 65 South Harrison, even to get valuables and/or documents is just the first and open one.

They were for now told by city authorities that they cannot return until the building struc-

ture has been secured. One of the 15 families called up the city's housing inspector, saying that she saw cracks developing in an apartment wall.

"Our construction engineer saw cracks in the foundation (Sept. 28) and deemed that the building was a hazard," said Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green past Noon Oct. 4. "We evacuated the building, arranged temporary shelter and notified the building owner."

65 Harrison, at the southwest corner of Harrison and Freeway Drive, is listed as a four-story building holding up to 17 apartment units. Records do not show the building's age but it does appear to be from the late Victorian Era, in keeping with the contemporary apartment buildings and mansions along Harrison of that time.

Harrison Street has since had two waves of apartment and hotel buildings; one from 1910-40 and the current wave starting in 2010.

Records do show that Harrison C & M was formed May 5, 2005 and bought 65 So. Harrison for \$850,000. It appears to be operating off-site by Estate Realty Group, of New City, NY, since June 14, 2018.

The city housing inspector gave 65 So. Harrison 24 hours notice to grab what they need and go. A tenant's cell phone recording showed

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NYC SUBWAY SHOOTER GETS LIFE IN PRISON

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Editorial
Dhiren Shah
 Editor-In-Chief

Hello Readers,

Terrorists may be inside the country. Since lately. I have seen more signs asking for people to call if they see anything suspicious. Now all over, we see it on more billboard signs, especially the electronic ones on the road.

A man wanted for killing five Texas neighbors, including a 9-year-old boy, had been deported about four times from the U.S. Will our law system just deport him again? As I've heard, illegal immigrants have more rights than we do by our administration. In the schools, they do not require any proof of their name, address, or vaccination records. Again, they don't even

need to go through vaccination, but by law they will be admitted into the schools. If they have a disease or Covid, are the other students protected?

The suspect, identified by ICE as Francisco Oropesa Perez-Torres, was first removed by an immigration judge in March 2009, an ICE source told CNN on Oct. 9.

“SUSPECT TERRORISM, CONTACT NJOHSP, 866-4-SAFE-NJ.” We all must have seen this while traveling on any road on digital billboards all over. This makes me think that the government feels that terrorism could be happening over here. However, some powerful politicians are helping some terrorists get control of other countries. But they forget that one day, it may be in our own country.

The way the trend is going, by giving more benefits to illegal immigrants, one day might come that our citizens want to move to other countries, or holding a dual citizenship to take advantage of

other countries' citizenship while living in the U.S. When they get caught, they will show their other country's ID card, and can get away from prosecution.

It happened in India. Some well-established caste members have changed their caste on the record to get many benefits from the government, which was strictly for the lower caste. In 2013, the government started to give a quarter million rupees per year for the couple who gets married to a lower caste (Dalit caste). This way, inter-caste marriages will bring better future for the Dalit Caste, which is one of the lowest castes in India. Many people have taken advantage of getting married to bring lower caste benefits. However, some phony guys got married on paper and split the benefits between them.

More than 75,000 Kaiser Permanente workers in California and elsewhere walked off the job on October 5th in what labor leaders described as the biggest strike by healthcare workers in

U.S. history. The strike was postponed after three days, while the negotiations continued between management and the labor union. The union already said that if their demands are not met by the administration, they will go on strike again.

Biden approved more border wall. In previous statements, he said: 2019 - “Not a single inch of Trump's wall will be built by my administration.” ... “It is amazing that a country that has spent so much money on military operations (outside its borders), has failed to protect its own borders.” Biden said on Twitter on November 2020: “We need to: Build bridges, not walls. Open our arms, not clench our fists. Focus on the ties that bind us together, not tear each other apart.”

But I give him credit. He came to his senses and indirectly accepted his mistake and agreed to build more wall, which Trump started.

*Have a wonderful week.
 I'll talk to you next time.*

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WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Rain	Rain	Mostly Cloudy	Chance of Rain	AM Rain
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LO 51	LO 51	LO 52	LO 50	LO 50	LO 49	LO 48

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NEW CANCER DIAGNOSES FELL ABRUPTLY EARLY IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

CDC - New diagnoses of six major cancer types in the United States fell abruptly in early 2020, coinciding with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to findings from part 2 of the latest Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer.

The volume of pathology reports also declined sharply in early 2020, suggesting that fewer cancer screenings and other cancer-related procedures were performed during that time. Taken together, the findings suggest that many cancers were not being diagnosed in a timely manner during the early part of the COVID-19 pandemic, likely due to interruptions in medical care.

“These missed opportunities for early cancer detection are alarming, particularly for those vulnerable populations that continue to face significant barriers in accessing cancer care,” said Monica M. Bertagnolli, M.D., director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). “This report highlights the urgency in helping all Americans get back on track with their cancer care so that we

can avoid unnecessary deaths and complications from cancer. That’s exactly why expanding cancer screening access and awareness is a key priority of the Biden-Harris administration’s Cancer Moonshot.”

This study is the largest to date using population-based data from central cancer registries to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer incidence (new diagnoses of cancer) in the United States. The report appeared September 27, 2023, in *Cancer*.

The Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer is a collaborative effort among NCI, part of the National Institutes of Health; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); the American Cancer Society; and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries to provide information about cancer occurrence and trends in the United States. Part 1 of the latest report, which focused on national cancer statistics, was released in October 2022.

Part 2 of the latest report fo-

cuses on changes in cancer diagnoses in the United States during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors suggest that these changes were due in part to interruptions in medical care. In particular, early 2020 saw a decline in cancer screenings. In addition, diagnoses made as a result of early symptoms or in the course of routine medical visits may have been delayed when people held off on seeing their doctors.

The authors analyzed cancer incidence data for 2015 to 2020 using data from select population-based cancer registries that participate in CDC’s National Program of Cancer Registries or NCI’s Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program.

The authors compared the number of newly diagnosed cases of cancer in 2020 with what was expected based on previous years. They looked at female breast, lung, and colorectal cancers, which are often diagnosed through screening tests or other forms of early detection that may have been disrupted by the pandemic; thyroid and prostate cancers, which are often diagnosed incidentally; and pancreatic cancer, which is usually diagnosed when the patient presents with symptoms. The authors also compared the volume of electronic pathology reports sent to central cancer registries in 2020 with the volume sent in 2019.

From March to May 2020, new cases of all six cancer types fell sharply. By July 2020, however, diagnoses of all cancer types except prostate cancer had returned to pre-pandemic levels, with little difference between observed and expected numbers during the second half of the year.

Over the same period in early 2020, the volume of electronic pathology reports also declined steeply before returning to pre-pandemic levels. Because these reports are transmitted automatically to cancer registries, the findings suggest that the decline in new cancer diagnoses was not due to delays in reporting caused by pandemic disruptions but rather to missed screenings and delays in other cancer-related procedures.

The authors also looked at declines in new cancer cases by cancer stage at diagnosis, sex, age, and population group. For each cancer type in the study, new cases of early-stage cancers fell more sharply than new cases of advanced cancers. The declines were greatest for the cancers typically diagnosed through screening (female breast, lung, and colorectal cancer). For example, 7,147 cases of early-stage colorectal cancer were expected to be diagnosed in 2020, but only 5,983 cases were diagnosed - meaning that potentially more than 16% of early-stage colorectal cancer cases weren’t caught.

“We are deeply concerned about the implications of delayed diagnosis, which is typically associated with more aggressive disease and worse outcomes,” said Karen E. Knudsen, M.B.A., Ph.D., chief executive officer of the American Cancer Society. “It is imperative to ensure that we make up for lost ground on finding cancers early, and thereby maximize opportunities for effective treatment and survival.”

However, missed screenings only partly explain the observed declines in new cancer cases. Fewer in-person medical visits likely also contributed to the underdiagnoses, particularly for diseases such as thyroid cancer, which is often caught incidentally during other medical procedures.

Asian or Pacific Islander populations had greater declines in new cases of all cancer types, except for pancreatic cancer, compared with White, Black, and American Indian or Alaska Native populations. Another notable population group difference was a greater decline in prostate cancer diagnoses among White people than Black people.

The authors acknowledged that the data comprise information reported to a subset of cancer registries, which may not be representative of the entire U.S. population. Nor does it include in-depth analyses on cancer diagnoses in Hispanic populations, which will be incorporated at a later point.

Nevertheless, the findings suggest that there were missed

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SPORTS WRAP

By William Hathaway, Jr.

New Jersey high school football just wrapped Week 6, with two more weeks in the regular season. The Weequahic Indians are still undefeated this year under head coach Brian Logan, after trouncing Boonton 63-0. Leading Weequahic was Paul Jones with 250 yards passing and four touchdowns, which went to Rashawn Marshall, Elijah Motley, Leroy Singleton and Darrel Barrow. Marshall had 130 yards on the ground for the 6-0 Indians.

West Orange struggled out the gate, but has now improved to a 3-3 record after beating a stunningly poor 1-5 East Orange team 29-6. Charlie Lamorte led West Orange on 11-18 passing for 176 yards and Rayel Hunter added 100 yards. In the first quarter, Terrell Willfong caught a 15 yard TD pass from Lamorte and running back Adonis White

had a 20 yard TD run in the game.

East Orange was led by Kyree Fisher on 14-22 passing for 196 yards. Corey Woolridge ran it in for the lone EO TD in the game.

In other action, the Irvington Knights defeated Montclair 27-0 on the road.

In the pro game, the Jets got justice for offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett, after a surprising 31-21 win in Denver. Gang Green got contributions from special teams and its defense, along with a long TD run from Breece Hall for the win. The game was after New York forced a Russell Wilson fumble and ran it in for a TD.

Speaking of Miami, the Dolphins got over a loss to Buffalo and beat the NY Giants 31-16. In the loss, Giants QB Daniel Jones suffered some kind of neck injury.



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NEW JERSEY JOINS FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION & 16 STATES IN SUING AMAZON

TRENTON - Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin announced recently that New Jersey has joined the Federal Trade Commission and 16 other state attorneys general in suing Amazon.com, Inc., alleging that the online retail and technology company is a monopolist that uses a set of interlocking anti-competitive and unfair strategies to illegally maintain its monopoly power. Per the complaint, Amazon's actions allow it to stop rivals and sellers from lowering prices, degrade quality for shoppers, overcharge sellers, stifle innovation, and prevent rivals from fairly competing against Amazon.

The complaint alleges that Amazon violates the law, not because it is big, but because it engages in a course of exclusionary conduct that prevents current competitors from growing, and new competitors from emerging. By stifling competition on price, product selection and quality, and by preventing its current or future rivals from attracting a critical mass of shoppers and

sellers, Amazon ensures that no current or future rival can threaten its dominance. Amazon's far-reaching schemes impact hundreds of billions of dollars in retail sales every year, touch hundreds of thousands of products sold by businesses, big and small, and affect over a hundred million shoppers.

"Through conduct that illegally enables it to dominate the online retail market, Amazon harms New Jersey residents and businesses by stifling competition and limiting consumer choice," said Attorney General Platkin. "Our complaint seeks to promote fair competition, encourage innovation, and force Amazon to relinquish its monopoly. It's time to break free from their digital stranglehold and create a level playing field."

"Our complaint lays out how Amazon has used a set of punitive and coercive tactics to unlawfully maintain its monopolies," said FTC Chair Lina M. Khan. "The complaint sets forth detailed allegations noting how Amazon is now exploiting its

monopoly power to enrich itself while raising prices and degrading service for the tens of millions of American families who shop on its platform and the hundreds of thousands of businesses that rely on Amazon to reach them. Today's lawsuit seeks to hold Amazon to account for these monopolistic practices and restore the lost promise of free and fair competition."

"We're bringing this case because Amazon's illegal conduct has stifled competition across a huge swath of the online economy. Amazon is a monopolist that uses its power to hike prices on American shoppers and charge sky-high fees on hundreds of thousands of online sellers," said John Newman, Deputy Director of the FTC's Bureau of Competition. "Seldom in the history of U.S. antitrust law has one case had the potential to do so much good for so many people."

The FTC and states allege Amazon's anticompetitive conduct occurs in two markets - the online superstore market that

serves shoppers and the market for online marketplace services purchased by sellers. These tactics include:

- Anti-discounting measures that punish sellers and deter other online retailers from offering prices lower than Amazon, inflating prices for products across the internet. For example, if Amazon discovers that a seller is offering lower-priced goods elsewhere, Amazon can bury discounting sellers so far down in Amazon's search results that they become effectively invisible.
- Requiring sellers to use Amazon's costly fulfillment service to obtain "Prime" eligibility for their products - a virtual necessity for doing business on Amazon. This tactic has made it substantially more expensive for sellers on Amazon to also offer their products on other platforms, which has in turn

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MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL & HAMAS AT WAR

Top UN officials were “in close contact with all concerned to urge maximum restraint” following “horrific scenes of violence” that left dozens dead and hundreds wounded in Israeli cities near the Gaza Strip amid rocket attacks by armed Palestinian militants early Oct. 7, with the UN Security Council announcing it would hold a private meeting to discuss the matter.

The UN Secretary-General condemned “in the strongest terms” the attack by Hamas against Israeli towns, UN Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said.

At dawn, a Hamas-led operation launched thousands of rockets towards Israel from the Gaza Strip, according to the UN relief agency for Palestinians, UNRWA, and its latest situation report.

In response, “Israeli authorities declared that the country is in a state of war and called up military reservists,” according to the agency, which is based in Gaza.

By mid-day, UNRWA reported that “Israeli forces launched operation ‘Iron Sword’ with strikes on the Gaza strip by air, land and sea.”

At nightfall, the agency said the Ministry of Health in Gaza reported 232 people had been killed and 1,697 injuries, including two UNRWA students. Meanwhile, “at least 20,363 internally displaced people were sheltering in 44 UNRWA schools in all areas in the Gaza Strip, except Khan Younis, 28 of which are designated emergency shelters.

“The attacks have so far claimed numerous Israeli civilian lives and injured many hun-

dreeds,” Mr. Dujarric said. “The Secretary-General is appalled by reports that civilians have been attacked and abducted from their own homes.”

The UN chief is deeply concerned for the civilian population and urges maximum restraint and that “all diplomatic efforts” are made “to avoid a wider conflagration” the UN Spokesperson said. “Civilians must be respected and protected in accordance with international humanitarian law at all times.”

With deepest condolences to the families of the victims, the UN chief called for the immediate release of all abducted persons, Mr. Dujarric said.

“He stresses that violence cannot provide a solution to the conflict, and that only through negotiation leading to a two-State solution can peace be achieved,” the UN Spokesperson said.

Also, in response to the attack, Israel has cut off food, fuel, and electricity from Gaza. Hamas has threatened to kill hostages if Israel advances into Gaza.

As of 1:00 p.m. on Oct. 10, over 1,600 people in Israel have been killed, including at least 14 American citizens. Over 800 are reported dead in Palestine. Some Americans who were not in the line of fire are still stranded there. Among the Americans caught up in the chaos was none other than U.S. Senator Cory Booker, who did manage to get out of Israel.

In describing his ordeal, Booker posted the following to X (fka Twitter): “I was in Israel when the horrific attacks carried out by Hamas started on Saturday. My team and I are now safe, but like many we are shaken, angered, and heartbroken by the hundreds killed, the thousands injured, those taken hostage, and all who are directly affected by these sickening terrorist attacks.

“After this experience, more than ever, I am committed to working with my colleagues in the Senate to continue supporting Israel’s security and ensuring

stability in the region - and I hope one day soon, a long-term and just peace in the region.”

Meanwhile, U.S. President Joe Biden came out condemning the atrocities:

“I spoke with Prime Minister Netanyahu about the horrific and ongoing attacks in Israel. The United States unequivocally condemns this appalling assault against Israel by Hamas terrorists from Gaza, and I made clear to Prime Minister Netanyahu that we stand ready to offer all appropriate means of support to the Government and people of Israel.

“Terrorism is never justified. Israel has a right to defend itself and its people. The United States warns against any other party hostile to Israel seeking advantage in this situation. My Administration’s support for Israel’s security is rock solid and unwavering.

“Jill and I are keeping in our prayers all of the families who have been hurt by this violence. We are heartbroken by the lives that have been tragically cut short and hope for a swift recovery for all those who have been wounded.

“My team and I are tracking this situation closely, and I will remain in close touch with Prime Minister Netanyahu.”

UNITED STATES

NYC SUBWAY SHOOTER GETS LIFE IN PRISON

Frank James, 62, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was sentenced Oct. 5 by U.S. District Judge William F. Kuntz II to 10 concurrent life sentences in prison, plus 10 years to run consecutively for shooting 10 people during an attack on the New York City subway in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, on April 12, 2022. James previously pleaded guilty to all 11 counts of a superseding indictment, which included 10 counts of committing a terrorist attack or other violence against a mass transportation vehicle - one count for each gunshot victim - and one count of discharging a

firearm in furtherance of his violent attack.

“Nothing can undo the damage that Frank James’s mass shooting inflicted on the 10 victims who were shot or the dozens more who suffered other injuries, but this sentence ensures that he will spend the rest of his life in prison for the devastation he caused,” said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. “This sentence also makes clear that the Justice Department has no tolerance for crimes that terrorize our communities and will ensure accountability for those who perpetrate them.”

During rush hour on the morning of April 12, 2022, James used a Glock 17 pistol he legally purchased to conduct a mass shooting on an N subway train in Brooklyn. James planned his act of terror for years - purchasing smoke bombs, disguises, firearms, and ammunition. He scouted the location for his attack and completed multiple practice runs.

As part of his attack, James, disguised in an orange reflective jacket and yellow hard hat to look like a Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) employee, set off a smoke-bomb in a subway car before opening fire on his captive victims. Panicked passengers ran to the far end of the subway car, allowing James to shoot at his victims more easily. When the defendant started shooting, the train was between stations and then temporarily stalled, leaving victims trapped.

In total, 10 victims were struck by 16 bullets fired by the defendant. Dozens more suffered from smoke inhalation and other mental and physical injuries due to the defendant’s attack. James then fled the scene of the attack, changing his clothing frequently to evade detection while law enforcement engaged in a 36-hour manhunt to find him and bring him to justice.

At some point after the shooting, James purchased a burner phone which he used to follow the coverage of his attack while hiding from law enforce-

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Hispanics and Mental Health

**Opinion-Editorial by
Alexandra Mizrahi
Family Engagement &
Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Family Support Organization
of Essex County**

Hispanic families often face many challenges and barriers regarding mental health accessibility. It could contribute to their cultural upbringing, no access to education, and lack of status or documentation, which brings the fear of being known. A mental health stigma is apparent in how Hispanic families raise their children. They feel it can easily be outgrown or it is better not to talk about it, because they could even think “you are crazy.” These factors make it difficult for Hispanic families to access mental health care:

- Cost and insurance coverage
- Cultural assimilation
- Exposure to traumatic events
- Generational conflicts
- Immigration
- Lack of cultural understanding
- Migration experiences and events
- Racism

Hispanic children continue to be the most uninsured racial or ethnic group of the children in the United States. There is not enough information known about the risk factors for and consequences of these uninsured children.

As a Hispanic single mother from Venezuela, I returned to the United States 23 years ago. It saddens me to see the barriers immigrant mothers face daily. They often need to work 7 days a week in more than one job. These mothers still find themselves unable to have a regular physician, because they do not have funds for medical care or health insurance. Plus, their language barriers and schedules make it difficult to get appointments. As a result, Hispanics and Latinos are a high-risk population.

Professionally, I work for the Family Support Organization of Essex County. Our non-profit agency is a family-centered organization that provides peer support, education, and advocacy for parents of children who have behavioral, developmental, emotional, intellectual, mental health, and substance use challenges. Our goal is to empower parents and caregivers to take control of their lives by building on their strengths and supporting them, as necessary. We hire parents that raise these children, because they are uniquely able to provide one-to-one peer support to other parents in similar situations. The engagement, education, and empowerment of families is a key factor in their acceptance of mental health services. We help families understand the importance of these services and how they can support their families.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention:

“Common mental health conditions among Latinx/Hispanic individuals include generalized anxiety disorder, major depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and excessive use of alcohol and drugs. Suicide is also a concern for Latinx/Hispanic youth (July 25, 2017).”

I have also discovered that “only 20 percent of Hispanics/Latinos with symptoms of a psychological disorder talk to a doctor about their concerns, and only 10 percent contact a mental health specialist (National Alliance on Mental Illness). As a strong believer in advocacy and education, I empathize with the needs and barriers faced by many Hispanic families. It takes engagement and awareness to make a difference. Let us not be silent, let us seek to support and work with others to find the resources necessary to bring about change.



Family Support Organization of Essex County (FSOEC) offers support groups and workshops for parents and caregivers of children with special needs. You're not on this journey alone!

OCTOBER 12: Transitions to Adult Life is a 3-Part workshop for parents of youth with an Individualized Education Program. It helps ensure students are ready to make a leap into a fulfilling adult life. Register at: http://bit.ly/fsoec_transition

OCTOBER 18: New Family Welcome Group is for caregivers raising children with special challenges. We introduce our organization, team, and services to you. You'll learn more about the guided journey as a caregiver. Plus, you have an opportunity to ask questions and express your concerns.

OCTOBER 26: Better Together Dads meets monthly on 4th Thursdays to give fathers a safe place for connection with other passionate dads.

Our activities and group meetings occur on Zoom and in person, visit our website for the details: <https://bit.ly/fsoeevents>

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CANCER (Continued from page 4)

opportunities for early cancer detection during the pandemic. Other studies have suggested that delays in cancer detection may lead to long-term consequences, such as shorter survival and greater number of deaths. The authors noted that efforts to get people back on track with screening should focus on removing barriers to preventive care visits and reducing disparities in early detection.

As part of the reignited Cancer Moonshot, the President and First Lady announced a call to action on cancer screening to jump-start progress on the nearly 10 million screenings in the United States that were missed as a result of the pandemic. To date, the Cancer Moonshot has accelerated innovations in cancer prevention, detection, and treatment and has expanded access to cancer screening across all 50 states, territories, and Tribal organizations, including through \$200 million invested from CDC. The Biden-Harris administration continues to prioritize closing the screening gap

so Americans can catch cancer early, when outcomes are best, and encourage Americans to get recommended screenings.

“We recommend everyone get back into routine health care, including cancer screening,” said Lisa C. Richardson, M.D., M.P.H., director of CDC’s Division of Cancer Prevention and Control. “It’s also important to make sure children, adolescents, and adults are up to date on vaccines to prevent infections with viruses - like hepatitis B virus and human papillomavirus - that can lead to cancer.”

Meanwhile, research is ongoing to gain additional insights into the impacts of the pandemic on cancer trends.

“This study is a reminder that a decline in cancer incidence may not always reflect progress in the fight against cancer,” said Betsy A. Kohler, M.P.H., North American Association of Central Cancer Registries executive director. “We are currently conducting more in-depth analysis of the full 2020 data to further understand the implications of the pandemic on cancer outcomes.”

LOCAL TALK

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Watch the Essex County College *Community Education Forum* TV Series, hosted by Alfred Bundy on  and 

DISPLACED EAST

ORANGE RESIDENTS

(Continued from page 1)

people leaving with garbage bags full of items walking across an avenue closed by the East Orange Police Department. CoachUSA buses on the 24B route were among the diverted traffic.

The video clip also showed NJ DCA workers supervising and a PSE&G utility crew cutting off power to the building.

The City of East Orange uses the Ramada Inn as its emergency housing go-to. Municipalities are required to have an evacuation plan under NJ DCA supervision.

65, So Harrison, going by a records search, has been having infrastructural problems for some time. The last DCA inspection, done Aug. 10, resulted in 172 code violations to Harris and Estate. A December 2016 inspection drew 108 violations. (It is not known whether there were overlapping violations.)

Some of the 15 working class families in 65 So. Harrison started noticing and pointing

out problems in October 2022. they told in their Noon, Oct. 4 press conference before the Ramada Inn that they noticed gas leaks, leaking ceilings, molding walls, inoperable windows and more.

"The floor is not level," said Judith Judge, a mother of three. "The light switches keep going on and off. I can see little flames coming out from the switches in the utility box."

"I'm very stressed right now," said Douglas Oliveria, who had lived in two rooms with his wife and children. "No one from the city is helping us."

The 18 men, women and children at the Evergreen Place press conference presented one view of their problems in addition to "the city isn't helping us." In English, Spanish, French Creole and Portuguese, they called on the state to raise the \$2,000 daily fines against landlords with code violations to be raised to \$3,000 or \$4,000.

A couple compared their woes to that of 75 Prospect St. - a quarter mile north and within view of the conference. The 75 Prospect Street Tenants Association had recent-

ly resorted to petition for a court-appointed receiver for the 1925 landmark apartment building. The receiver would then make the repairs that the owner and manager had not done so far.

They want violating landlords to go to jail - which is where Mayor Green and a handful of city officials appeared.

"We're not going to put these people out on the street," declared Green. "I put my team together this morning and we're reaching out to the tenants and the hotel management."

Although it was not clear who the individual was from Harrison C&M, Green added that "The landlord has an arrest warrant out on him, He has a court date with us."

Oliveria, told "Local Talk" late Oct. 9 and students from the Rutgers Law School looked to see how that can assist with their case.

A spokesperson for Harrison told a reporter late Oct. 4 is that they are working with the tenants and hotel about the payment.

TOWN WATCH

DISCLAIMER: The following items are primarily drawn from first responders. Responders' accounts may not be their full activity range. Grand juries hand down indictments when evidence presented them warrant a trial. Named suspects/defendants are innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

NEWARK - To say that Beulah James Fulker, 109, whose visitation and funeral was held here at the Perry Funeral Home Oct. 5, was the mother of Mayor-State Senator Sharpe James would only be scraping the surface.

James Fulker, who died in her sleep in Maplewood's Winchester Gardens Sept. 28, also gave birth to future NJIT graduate and rocket engineer Joseph "Louis" James. James Fulker, who outlived husbands Louis James and Tom Fulker, was also a trailblazer of her own.

Born in Beulah James in Jessup, Ga., Sept. 18, 1914, James Fulker fled Jim Crow segregation and an abusive boyfriend in Jacksonville, Fla., by fleeing north with Joe and James in tow by train. Settling in Newark's Johnson Street, she, she married Louis James in 1933.

The accomplished pianist, restaurateur and cook joined Newark Beth Israel Medical Center's nursing program. She graduated with highest LPN honors and worked in Cherry Hill, NJ. She would later own homes in Newark and Lawnside, N.J.

The lifelong Hopewell Baptist Church member raised Louis and Sharpe through South Side High School in 1953 and 1954. Louis graduated from then-Newark College of Engineering (now NJIT) to become an aeronautical engineer, working on Trident missile systems for Lockheed and the U.S. Navy.

Sharpe was a scholar-athlete at then-Montclair State and Springfield (Mass.) colleges. The Washington State Universi-

ty doctoral candidate went on to become Newark South Ward Councilman, Mayor (1986-2006), State Senator, Essex County College Urban Studies Director and author.

Beulah James became Beulah James Fulker by marrying Tom Fulker after J. James' untimely death. Grandsons John Sharpe (also a South Ward Councilman,) Elliott and Kevin and granddaughters Janet and Judith are among her survivors. "Kosher Soul" singer Joshua Nelson provided the funeral's musical arrangement. James Fulker was buried in Berlin.

IRVINGTON / MAPLEWOOD - There is a reason why admission prices at the Oct. 6 Columbia High School football game were raised in the wake of their Sept. 14 game against Irvington - and why police detectives from Irvington and Maplewood are looking to interview those who attended the latter game.

Irvington and Maplewood police are looking for the suspects who walked from the former's side of Underhill Field to Columbia's side Spt. 14. Columbia's Cougars (4-2) were getting blanked by the (4-2) Irvington Blue Knights, 21-0.

Video recordings that were brought to both townships' police and the South Orange-Maplewood School District attention noticed several males began fighting with those in the Columbia stands. CHS Principal Frank Sanchez said that at least one person on the home team side was injured in the one-minute altercation. MPD and security officers and SOMSD administrators were present.

Sanchez, in his Sept. 18 open letter, said that CHS students with a valid ID will hereafter pay \$3 admission. Everyone else, including visitors and CHS alumni, will pay "adult prices."

While Sanchez congratulated the CHS community's behavior at the home games up to then, he warned that night football games may be replaced by daylight games as early as Oct. 21's

match here against Montclair.

The incident and Sanchez's letter were part of SOMSD Board of Education Second Vice President' Nubia Duvall Wilson's report at their Sept. 28 meeting.

The CHS Cougars beat the Bloomfield Bengals, 42-6 Oct. 6.

EAST ORANGE - There is a reason for any moving activity going on this season at the former Walgreens or Rite-Aid pharmacy on 80 Central Ave.

Extra Supermarkets, according to the city's Sept. 28 announcement, will be opening a second grocery store in the 11,268-square-foot store at Central and Grove Street's northeastern corner.

The drug store had opened as a Rite-Aid in 1997 and underwent a renovation in 2018. Rite-Aid, in a corporate downsizing, sold 80 Central to Walgreens - among others in East Orange, Orange, West Orange, Irvington and Glen Ridge - by 2020.

This will be in addition to Extra's familiar store at 563-69 Central Ave. Extra bought its economy and international food offerings to the former late 1950s-era Good Deal/Shop-Rite at Central and Sanford Street Extension's southwestern corner.

The new Extra would relieve a grocery desert in East Orange's Hollywood-Teen Streets and Newark's Roseville section since Western Beef closed at "1A New Main St./Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Sept. 8, 2019. (Extra also has a supermarket along Clinton Avenue on the Maplewood-Irvington border.)

ORANGE - Some of the four people, including a two-year-old toddler, may still be in a local hospital, recovering from a four-car crash above Interstate 280 here Oct. 6.

A city police blotter entry that Friday night told of officers responding to a multi car crash on "South Jefferson Street and I-280" at 10:20 p.m. They would be joined by several local ambulances and an Orange Fire Department engine.

The report is not clear

whether the four vehicles in the mishap were on South Jefferson's bridge over I-280 or nearer to Madison Street to the north or towards Glebe Street to the south. It is also unclear whether units or firefighters from the nearby West Orange Fire Station at Valley Road were also called.

Officers and ambulance EMS technicians promptly extricated the four vehicles' occupants and sent them off to area hospitals for treatment. The five admitted for treatment included some "with severe injuries" and the toddler.

The scene was reopened to traffic, after an on-scene investigation was conducted, by 12:01 a.m. Oct. 7.

WEST ORANGE - A Manhattan couple is having the Essex Equestrian Center here at being restored for a 2024 reopening.

Brianne Goutal-Martreau and Romain Matheau, who said they had bought the center from the Hall family, of Verona, for \$1.15 million in September, added that they have had interests from 20 to 40 horse owners who want to board their horses here in the spring and next autumn.

Brianne Goutal-Matheau, a twice Gold Cup equestrian champion, and real estate husband Romain said that their revisions to the near-century-old stable will reduce its 100 stalls to 60. The space will give more room for the horses, larger indoor and outdoor rings plus an option for therapeutic riding.

Renovations will also be made to the residence on 10-22 Woodland Ave., for year-round operation. At least two trainers will be on hand. They have not said whether they will also improve the tunnel running beneath Prospect Avenue to the Eagle Rock Reservation.

The Matheaus have not said whether EEC will keep its name, revert to "Suburban Essex EC" or "Montclair Riding Club" or "Woodland Riding Club" or reopen with a new name.

The Halls closed the last riding or equestrian center in Essex

(Continued on page 14)

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 6)

ment. For example, James watched 31 videos of news reports about his subway shooting. He also watched a James Bond chase scene from the movie “No Time to Die” 10 times after the attack. Finally, James turned himself in by calling the NYPD crime stoppers hotline on April 13, 2022, the day after the mass shooting.

The New York Joint Terrorism Task Force investigated the case, with valuable assistance provided by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the ATF.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Sara K. Winik and Ellen H. Sise for the Eastern District of New York are prosecuting the case with valuable assistance provided by the National Security Division’s Counterterrorism Section.

MASS SHOOTING UPDATE

Information recent as of 10-10-2023 at 12 p.m.

2023 Mass Shooting Stats: (Source: Mass Shooting Tracker, <https://www.massshootingtracker.site/data/?year=2023>)

- Total Mass Shootings: 616
- Total Dead: 731
- Total Wounded: 2455
- Shootings Per Day: 2.18
- Days Reached in Year 2023 as of Oct. 10: 283

WORLD

THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE GOES TO...

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize 2023 to Narges Mohammadi for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all.

This year’s peace prize also recognizes the hundreds of thousands of people who, in the preceding year, have demonstrated against Iran’s theocratic regime’s policies of discrimination and oppression targeting women. The motto adopted by the demonstrators - “Woman - Life - Freedom” - suitably expresses the dedication and work of Narges Mohammadi.

Narges Mohammadi is a woman, a human rights advocate, and a freedom fighter. Her brave struggle for freedom of expression and the right of independence has come with tremendous personal costs. Altogether, the regime in Iran has arrested her 13 times, convicted her five times, and sentenced her to a total of 31 years in prison and 154 lashes. Narges Mohammadi is still in prison.

The Nobel Committee’s decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize to imprisoned Iranian human rights activist Narges Mohammadi underscores the “courage and determination” of the women of Iran, the UN human rights office, OHCHR, said on Oct. 6.

“I think what is absolutely clear is that the women

NJ TRANSIT

PUBLIC NOTICE

NJ TRANSIT is in search of enthusiastic, community-minded individuals to participate in NJ TRANSIT’s Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Citizens Advisory Committee. The mission of the Committee is to provide advice and comment on topics within the statutory authority of the Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Act N.J.A.C 16:78. Under the authority of the Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Act of 1984, the NJ TRANSIT Local Programs Citizens Advisory Committee allows for citizen input on projects that promote transit accessibility and give advice on issues pertaining to transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities that are funded through this act.

There shall be a minimum of eight regular meetings each year, which primarily are held in the Newark and Trenton areas. Advisory Committee members will attend meetings in person or virtually online. All selected locations for meetings shall be accessible for people with disabilities and served by accessible scheduled public transportation.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you or anyone that you know is interested in becoming a part of this Advisory Committee, please feel free to contact Grace Rhoe, Regional Program Assistant of Local Programs, at Grhoe@njtransit.com or by calling (973) 491-8891. In your e-mail or voicemail, please include your name, your phone number or e-mail address, whether you are a consumer of local community transportation or an advocate for a senior or a person with a disability who uses local community transportation, and why you would like to become part of this committee.

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of Iran have been a source of inspiration for the world. We’ve seen their courage and determination in the face of reprisals, intimidation, violence and detention,” Spokesperson Liz Throssell told journalists in Geneva.

“This courage, this determination, have been remarkable. They’ve been harassed for what they do or don’t wear, there are increasingly stringent legal, social and economic measures against them.”

In a statement on the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Ms. Mohammadi, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called it "an important reminder that the rights of women and girls are facing a strong pushback, including through the persecution of women human rights defenders, in Iran and elsewhere."

"This Nobel Peace Prize is a tribute to all those women who are fighting for their rights at the risk of their freedom, their health and even their lives," said the UN chief.

Welcoming the announcement to award the 2023 Nobel Peace prize to Ms. Mohammadi, experts appointed by the UN Human Rights Council urged the Government of Iran to free all those imprisoned for promoting women’s

rights and protect the rights of women and girls in the country.

“The awarding of the 2023 Nobel Peace prize to a courageous journalist and woman human rights defender highlights the struggle of women against institutionalized systems of discrimination, segregation, humiliation and the exclusion of women and girls everywhere in the world,” the UN experts said.

EUROPE

LIBRARIES & AUTHORS

More authors are set to benefit from improvements to the Scheme that pays them when their books are loaned from public libraries in the UK.

The Public Lending Right (PLR) Scheme provides authors with an income of up to £6,600 a year from loans of their books from public libraries in the UK and pays out more than £6 million annually. The rate paid to authors for each loan is calculated by dividing the total money available by the estimated total annual number of loans in public libraries.

The PLR Scheme currently specifies
(Continued on page 12)



*From
The
Pastor's
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Stir Up One Another To Love And Good Works

In a historic vote in Congress on October 3, 2023, the Speaker of the House was ousted from office. The 216-to-210 vote marked the first time in history that the House removed its leader, with eight Republicans voting with 208 Democrats to remove Mr. McCarthy.

Anyone who had been watching the direction of the Congress since the beginning of the year was not surprised since a lot of mistrust had been building up. Very likely, conditions became untenable because of McCarty's vacillating character and style of leadership or because of the culture within the Republican party. But more because of what is being done nationwide to spread hate instead of love.

And now, there is a reaping of what has been sown. Yes, the Former Speaker of the House has paid a price for the seeds of hatred that have been sown and which he has helped to water.

So, if at no other time, the encouragement needs to be given, it is now that we need to find a way to spread love amid hate.

The author of Hebrews says, "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works..." (Hebrews 10:24).

I heard it said, "Good deeds can be done without genuine love - it could be done out of selfish interest or ulterior motives. But genuine love does good deeds." We read this in the Bible, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8 NIV).

God demonstrated his love for the world by sending Jesus to save the world. Jesus also demonstrated his love for the world through his sacrificial death on the cross. Following the model, we are to show that we love others by our kind acts towards them. "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister." (1 John 4:20-21 NIV).

Professor Leo Buscaglia, who taught a course called "Love" at the University of California, used to insist that "Love is a learned phenomenon." In his book Love, Buscaglia lays out the following premises:

One cannot give what he does not possess. To give love, you must possess love.

One cannot teach what he does not understand. To teach love, you must comprehend love.

One cannot know what he does not study. To study love, you must live in love.

One cannot appreciate what he does not recognize. To recognize love, you must be receptive to love.

One cannot doubt that which he wishes to trust. To trust love, you must be convinced of love.

One cannot admit what he does not yield to. To yield to love, you must be vulnerable to love.

One cannot live what he does not dedicate himself to be. To dedicate yourself to love, you must be forever growing in love.

We must constantly remind ourselves that no one is born loving; we must learn to love. We see it in children that at their earliest, they grasp at everything, and if they are not taught to spread love, they will grow up doing the meanest things. They have to be reminded often to be kind. However, how much love we show them is how much they will have to give.

As adults, we need to encourage ourselves to love too. When we meet mean people, our humanity often tells us to respond in kind, but we need to pause and say there are better ways to live than being mean.

We should remember that loving deeds are transforming our souls. In fact, we do not only transform ourselves but often the lives of others. So, by loving works, we cause those around us to experience the presence of the

Kingdom of God. Jesus said, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16 NIV).

The bottom line of this reflection is that we all need to encourage one another to love because, without love, there is no hope for our world. Life without love is a bankrupt life, regardless of the abundance of money or possessions. One has nothing if one does not have love.

I remember the first lines and chorus of the song that I used to sing a few years ago, written by John Mohr and John Mays, which says:

*Je t'aime
Te amo
Ya ti-bya lyu blyu
Ani o hev ot cha
I love you
The sounds are all as different
As the lands from which they came
And though the words are all unique
Our hearts are still the same*

*Love in any language
Straight from the heart
Pulls us all together
Never apart
And once we learn to speak it
All the world will hear
Love in any language
Fluently spoken here*

Yes, we need to encourage love and loving actions to transform our souls, families, communities, and world.

WORLD NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 11)

that the number of loans is to be determined by means of a sample, with data from 30 councils used to assist payment calculations. These new changes will see the British Library move towards collecting comprehensive loans data from all library authorities in the UK to ensure authors are getting their fair share.

This means that the more of their books are loaned out by public libraries, the more income an author will receive through the Scheme.

According to the latest public statistics, Richard Osman's novel The Thursday Murder Club was the most borrowed book from libraries in 2021-22 while authors including

Roald Dahl, Daisy Meadows and Lee Child were among the top ten most popular.

The Scheme will also be changed to simplify the process for those who have inherited rights to a book from a deceased author, removing unnecessary, bureaucratic processes like the requirement to involve legal professionals.

Arts & Heritage Minister Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay said: "Libraries are an invaluable resource for people of all ages and backgrounds across the country, opening up access to a wealth of enlightenment and enjoyment.

"It is only right that authors receive fair payment when their work is loaned from libraries. These changes to the scheme will ensure that it is working as fairly and effectively as possible."

Phil Spence OBE, Chief Operating Officer of the British Library, said: We welcome these changes to the Public Lending Right Scheme - this allows for more information to be gathered on loans data, which will enable us to better serve the authors and creators whose works are loaned from public libraries, and the readers that borrow from them too.

The British Library receives funding from DCMS to run the Public Lending Right Scheme. Payments are made annually to eligible authors who register their work. Authors residing in the UK or European Economic Area are eligible to apply.

Changes to the Public Lending Right Scheme, which was established in 1982, will come into force on October 31, 2023.

ARREST WARRANT ISSUED FOR NEWARK MAN WANTED FOR TWO BURGLARIES



Unity Avenue

Quran Armstrong

Longfellow Avenue

NEWARK - Public Safety Director Fritz Fragé reports that an arrest warrant has been issued for Quran J. Armstrong, 45, of Newark, who is wanted for two burglaries - one on August 28, 2023 and another on September 30, 2023.

Police responded to the first incident, which occurred at approximately 4 a.m. in the 40 block of Unity Avenue on August 28, 2023. Armstrong, identified as the suspect, entered a home through a basement window and took fabric softener and laundry detergent.

During the second incident, which occurred at approximately 11:10 a.m. on September 30, 2023, Armstrong was spotted inside of a victim's vehicle taking \$5 to \$10 from the center console in the 50 block of Longfellow Avenue. When a resident confronted him, he ran away into a backyard and jumped over a fence.

Director Fragé urges anyone with information on Armstrong's whereabouts to call the Police Division's 24-hour Crime Stopper tip line at 1-877-NWK-TIPS (1-877-695-8477). All anonymous Crime Stopper tips are kept confidential and could result in a reward.

Anonymous tips may also be made using the Police Division's website at: <https://npd.newarkpublicsafety.org> Newark Police Division.

AMAZON SUED

(Continued from page 5)

limited competitors' ability to effectively compete against Amazon.

Amazon's illegal, exclusionary conduct makes it impossible for competitors to gain a foothold. With its amassed power across both the online superstore market and online marketplace services market, Amazon extracts enormous monopoly rents from everyone within its reach. This includes:

- Degrading the customer experience by replacing relevant, organic search results with paid advertisements - and deliberately increasing

junk ads that worsen search quality and frustrate both shoppers seeking products and sellers who are promised a return on their advertising purchase.

- Biasing Amazon's search results to preference Amazon's own products over ones that Amazon knows are of better quality.
- Charging costly fees on the hundreds of thousands of sellers that currently have no choice but to rely on Amazon to stay in business. These fees range from a monthly fee that sellers must pay for each item sold, to advertising fees that have become virtually necessary for sellers to do business. Combined, all of these fees force many sellers to pay

close to 50% of their total revenues to Amazon. These fees harm not only sellers but also shoppers, who pay increased prices for thousands of products sold on or off Amazon.

New Jersey, along with the FTC and its state partners, is seeking a permanent injunction in federal court that would prohibit Amazon from engaging in its unlawful conduct and pry loose Amazon's monopolistic control to restore competition.

Along with New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin joined the FTC's law-

suit.

The FTC vote to authorize staff to file for a permanent injunction and other equitable relief in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington was 3-0.

Deputy Attorneys General Ana Semoun Atta-Alla, Andrew Esoldi, Yale Leber, Leslie Prentice, and Bryan Sanchez of the Consumer Fraud Prosecution Section within the Division of Law's Affirmative Civil Enforcement Practice Group are representing New Jersey in the matter before the Western District Court of Washington, under the supervision of Assistant Section Chief Isabella R. Pitt, Assistant Attorney General Brian F. McDonough, and Deputy Director Jason W. Rockwell.

ESSEX COUNTY'S RECYCLING DAY

Computer & Electronics

Saturday, October 21, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Essex County Fleet Management (Public Works)
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ITEMS ACCEPTED:

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- Monitors
- Printers
- Fax Machines
- Scanners
- Telecom Equipment
- Speakers
- Televisions
- Keyboards
- Main Frames
- VCRs
- Stereos
- DVD Players
- Toasters
- Irons
- Old Cellular Telephones

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT:

- Smoke Detectors
- Carbon Monoxide Alarm



Free to all Essex County Residents. Essex County residents must provide proof of residency at the site.

COMMERCIAL AND LARGE QUANTITY USERS MAY NOT DROP OFF ITEMS.

- ✓ Do not exit vehicle.
- ✓ Items for disposal to be placed in trunk.
- ✓ No containers or boxes will be returned.

For more information call **973-792-9060** or www.ecuanj.com



"Recycling computer hardware and electronic devices helps remove lead and other dangerous chemicals from our waste stream, which is important for us and our children. With your participation, we can do our part to protect the environment."
— Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.



Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive, The Essex County Board of Commissioners and the Essex County Utilities Authority

The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

SPIKED STILETTOS (ARCHIVED - TAKE 2)

The oddity of seeing a woman today breastfeeding her child had been my initial focus. I was thrown because she was so young, but come to find out, she's just a few years shy of forty! What!

We were drawn to each other and made good on our promise. I was equally impressed when I entered Kayaswonna's home. I was offered a delightful dish of shrimp, scallops, Portobello mushrooms, and red snapper on a bed of rice; introduced to my first bottle of Norwegian Spring Water and to little ones with charming mannerisms; treated to hospitality, great conversation, which made for a pleasant time...

SPORTIN' MY MAMA'S SHOES

Interviewee: Kayaswonna Ebunaluwea Shaw

"BUSINESS AS USUAL... I am the person I am today because of my upbringing. I was born and raised in New York. As a teenager, I moved to London, England with my mom and traveled the world. I've been raised in the music industry. My mom and dad were hippies back in the day, so I grew up with a free spirit. I was not confined, nor did I conform to anything because of that.

"My grandparents grew up in North Carolina during that whole "You have to drink out of this fountain" - type thing, so my



Photo Credit Andrea Dialect

mom decided that, when she got into the music industry and she had her child, she wanted me to be free. She didn't want me to be bound by any of the cultural stuff, by the ways of the world. She said, "No, you're going to think outside of the box for the rest of your life," and I was like that from little.

"For instance, I never understood the concept of black and white. When I first was exposed to racism, I was about four years old. My neighbor's daughter, who was my best friend, was a little white girl. One day I went to her house to play, and she came out and told me, 'My mommy and daddy said I can't play with you no more,' and I asked her why and she said, 'Because you're a n--ger!' So I asked, 'What's a n--ger?' She didn't know, all she knew was what had been said.

"I went home and told my mom, and I can remember her asking, 'What's the matter, Swonna? What's wrong, pumpkin?' And I told her, and she broke down crying. Then she picked me up and carried me to their house and asked the lady, 'Why did you say that? Why would you put that in their heads? Why would you do that to them? They don't know color. All they know is that they're friends and they love each other.' She told us that it was her husband's decision, she was star-

tled by it, and I never saw my friend again.

"When my mom and dad separated then divorced, she sang with a group called 'Sneaky Cookin.' They were blacks, whites and Japanese. There were black and white (interracial) marriages, so I was raised around culturally eclectic people. There were no color barriers. When I was a kid, I used to comb Uncle Howard's hair and put grease in it. .

Now you know you don't put grease in white people's hair; I also did it to Uncle John, who was Spanish, and my uncle Mikey who happened to look like a Japanese Samurai. They'd let me because to them, I was their niece. I was raised in the company of many famous people.

"Would you believe that I went to the studio with my mom once, and guess what? I sat on the lap of John Lennon while they worked, and he showed me what buttons to push so I could talk to my mom while she was in the sound room. ...

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TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

County Dec. 31. Neighbors and residents were concerned that the property, due to its zoning for residential use, would be converted to housing.

SOUTH ORANGE - At least 55 humans and canines braved Sept. 7's rainy weather to march against hate to the village center's Spiotta Park.

The 55, going by a group photo taken at the park at 11 a.m. that Saturday, walked from Harper's Cafe at West Orange's South Valley Road as a rally in support of it and Pet Wants SOMA here at Village Center. They marched in protest to six years of vandalism and slurs both store's owners have endured.

The incidents, which ranged from bricks

thrown through storefront windows and Pride rainbow flags torn down to insults from a fellow South Orange business owner, have been filed with the respective police departments.

"We're proud of you guys and are proud to have you as business owners in West Orange and South Orange Downtown," said Village President Sheena Collum on her Facebook post Saturday afternoon. "We see you and always have your backs."

The march was to have started on Sept. 23 until Tropical Storm Ophelia intervened.

BLOOMFIELD - Those walking by 209 Franklin St., - better known as The Essex County Boys Technical-Vocational High School - depending on whether a township ordinance is passed, may want to take a lasting look.

Mayor Michale Venezia and the Town-

ship Council, on Sept. 18, passed an ordinance introduction where the municipality would buy the former "Bloomfield Tech" building from Essex County.

"The town is purchasing the Vo-Tech school," announced Venezia that Monday night, with the intent to "tearing down the building and making it for open space and for an athletic facility - but the opportunities are endless."

"Newark Tech," after 18 months, had vacated 209 Franklin St. Feb. 3 after their own building underwent a renovation. The "Bloomfield Tech" building has been used as substitute for "West Essex Tech" while that building was renovation.

The building - also known as Block 335, Lot 21 on the township zoning map - had first closed when its and the former North 13th Street, Newark communities were con-

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TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 14)

solidated into the then-new Donald M. Payne, Sr. Technology High School in Newark's Roseville section in 2019.

The Essex County Schools of Technology Board of Education, deciding that "Bloomfield Tech's" use is done, voted to sell the three-story building and five-acre lot to the county proper for \$100 March 13.

Bloomfield's elders may decide on buying Bloomfield Tech as early as their Oct. 30 meeting. That night's agenda was not yet posted as of Oct. 9.

MONTCLAIR - Residents and landscapers here plus businesses from 12 other towns within and outside of "Local Talk Land" are hoping to be before a State Superior Court judge in time to institute an injunction against the Township here before Oct. 16.

Montclair resident and landscapers here, West Orange, Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Nutley, Essex Fells, Livingston, Verona, Clifton, Woodland Park, Parsippany and Columbia filed a request Sept. 28 for an injunction hearing Oct. 12 against Montclair Township's Oct. 16 gasoline-powered leaf blower ban from taking effect.

The Township Council passed the year-round ban in August. Montclair's elders, on Sept. 12, an amendment allowing residents to own no more than two electrical leaf blowers for personal use on lots of less than an acre in size.

This revision also allowed municipal judges to impose larger fines. The cost of a first offense would be \$250.

The plaintiffs are arguing that the ordinance would treat businesses and residents differently. Landscapers would be forced to raise their fees for the extra time it takes to trim a lot with electric blowers. There is also no provision for landscapers to use an onsite or onboard power generator.

They also content that Montclair's ban would be stiffer than the state's 50 hp or smaller engine gas blower standard. The municipal law would therefore be stricter than the states Clean Air Act.

GLEN RIDGE - A state grand jury, in a Sept. 28 announcement by Acting Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin's Office, has handed a no bill of indictment against a Montclair Police Department officer in what became a fatal pursuit of two Philadelphia men here in The Glen May 10, 2022.

The jury handed their no bill of indict-

ment against MPD Off. Michael Kupchak Sept. 18 after studying evidence of the one car crash that killed driver Gregory K. Dukes, 42, and Cecil Richardson, 47, both of Philadelphia, at about 4:30 that morning.

The evidence presented included the two men's autopsy reports plus dashboard and body camera of Kupchak and the other MPD officer who followed Kupchak along Bloomfield Avenue eastward between Maple Avenue and Pine Street in Montclair to just west of Glen Ridge's Ridgewood Avenue intersection.

The footage showed Kupchak identifying the Philadelphia duo's car as being connected with a burglary earlier that day, turned on his overhead lights and siren and pursued the car. Kupchak backed off that pursuit after 20 seconds when the suspected car accelerated to up to 65 mph in Glen Ridge.

That car, a moment later, lost control just east of the Ridgewood Avenue intersection, hit a tree and plunged into The Glen. Both men died of their injuries.

Kupchak and fellow officer Brandon Taylor were shown getting out of the car to the crash scene. There they found a passenger, Todd Hill, injured. Hill, who was taken to Newark's University Hospital for treatment, has been indicted by a separate grand jury on robbery and weapons offences; he is awaiting trial.

The no bill means that Kupchak has been cleared of any criminal wrongdoing. The NJAG's Office of Public Integrity and Accountability, following their July 2021 guidelines,

Driver Dukes was eulogized May 8 at Philadelphia's Garden of Prayer Worship Center and passenger Richardson May 14 at Lenwood Jones Funeral Service. Both were buried in Cehelten Cemetery.

BELLEVILLE / NUTLEY - Last rites were given to a Nutley resident and funeral director Oct. 8 while the Belleville man who is accused of killing her remains held in Newark's Essex County Correctional Facility.

A funeral, followed by a private cremation, were held in Newark's Alvarez Funeral Home Sunday for Erica Rae Volosin. Volosin, who was born Jan. 18, 1986, in Passaic, was a licensed funeral director thanks to the state, a diploma from Mercer County Community College and an associate degree from Bergen County Community College.

Volosin, who worked at Alvarez and at Dover's Ann Taylor funeral homes, was a basketball scholar-athlete in her native

Wallington High School. Mother Laurie, Grandmother Carmella Viera and Brother John Carroll are among her survivors.

Volosin was found by responding Belleville police officers at a house along the 100 block of Meham Street at 10:24 a.m. Oct. 1. She was declared dead from a gunshot wound in the neck by the medical examiner there at 10:42 a.m.


Arrested at the scene was Meachum Street house resident Scott H. Hurring, 43, of Belleville. Hurring is being held on one count each of purposeful murder and the unlawful possession of a weapon. Belleville Police and ECPO Homicide Unit detectives said the shooting came after a night there of partying and narcotics use.


Memorial donations may be made to Eva's Kitchen of Paterson, evakitchen.org.

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